--Non-pathogenic HIV-1 strains were isolated from recipients of HIV-1 infected blood. The recipients are designated "C18", "C54", "C98", "C49", "C64" and "C124". The donor is identified herein as "D36". Viral isolate D36 was deposited on August 23, 1996 at the PHLS Centre for Applied Microbiology and Research, European Collection of Animal Cell Cultures (ECACC), Division of Biologies, Porton Down, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 OJG under Accession No. V96082324. The place of isolation may be indicated after the abbreviation of "HIV". For example, St. Vincents Hospital, Sydney (HIV_{stv}) or Macfarlane Burnet center of Medical Research, Melbourne (HIV_{MBC}). Viral isolate D36 was deposited on August 23, 1996 as Accession No. V96082324.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-48, 51-65, 68-84, 86-119 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 49-50, 66-67 and 85 to read as follows:

49. (Amended) A method for vaccinating an individual against the development of AIDS or AIDS related diseases, said method comprising administering to said individual a non-pathogenic isolate of HIV-1 in an amount effective to infect target cells and to generate target cells carrying DNA derived from said non-pathogenic isolate of HIV-1, wherein said isolate comprises a genomic deletion in the region corresponding to nucleotides 9281-9438 of the *nef* gene and U3 long terminal repeat, wherein said nucleotide numbering is based upon HIV-1 strain NL4-3 and said region comprises the nucleotide sequence coding for amino acids 166-206 of the *nef* protein.

50. (Amended) A method according to claim 49 wherein said isolate is capable of stimulating an immune response in humans and primates against at least one glycoprotein on

HIV-1 while not substantially reducing proliferative responses and cytokine production to a mitogen in said humans and primates.

66. (Amended) A method according to claim 49 wherein the HIV-1 isolate is recognized by an antibody to a glycoprotein of HIV-1, and is capable of inducing an immune response to at least one of the *gag*, *pol* or *env* proteins.

67. (Amended) A method according to claim 66 wherein said glycoprotein is at least one of gp41-45, gp120 or gp160.

85. (Amended) A therapeutic composition useful for inhibiting or reducing productive infection by a pathogenic strain of HIV-1 and/or for vaccinating an individual against the development of AIDS or AIDS-related diseases, said composition comprising a non-pathogenic isolate of HIV-1 and at least one of a pharmaceutical acceptable carrier or a diluent, wherein said isolate comprises a genomic deletion in the region corresponding to nucleotides 9281-9438 of the *nef* gene and U3 long terminal repeat, wherein said nucleotide numbering is based upon HIV-1 strain NL4-3 and said region comprises the nucleotide sequence coding for amino acids 166-206 of the *nef* protein.

Please add the following claims:

120. The method of Claim 49 wherein said deletion results in reduced expression of the *nef* gene product.

121. The method of claim 49 wherein said deletion results in the expression of a truncated *nef* gene product.

122. The method of claim 49, wherein said deletion comprises at least about 10 nucleotides.

123. The method of claim 49, wherein said isolate of HIV-1 is selected from the group of viruses having the ECACC designations V94101706, V941031169, and V95031022.

124. A method for vaccinating an individual against the development of AIDS or AIDS related diseases, said method comprising administering to said individual a non-pathogenic isolate of HIV-1 in an amount effective to infect target cells and to generate target cells carrying DNA derived from said non-pathogenic isolate of HIV-1, wherein said isolate comprises a genomic deletion of at least about 10 nucleotides in the region corresponding to nucleotides 9281-9438 of the *nef* gene and U3 long terminal repeat, wherein said nucleotide numbering is based upon HIV-1 strain NL4-3.

125. The method of claim 124, wherein said isolate is recognized by an antibody to one of gp41-45, gp120, or gp160 of HIV-1, and said HIV strain is capable of stimulating an immune response in humans or primates to at least one of the *gag*, *pol*, or *env* gene products without reducing proliferative responses and cytokine production to a mitogen in said humans or primates.

126. A method for vaccinating an individual against the development of AIDS or AIDS related diseases, said method comprising administering to said individual a non-pathogenic isolate of HIV-1 in an amount effective to infect target cells and to generate target cells carrying DNA derived from said non-pathogenic isolate of HIV-1, wherein said isolate is selected from the group of viruses having the ECACC designations V94101706, V941031169, and V95031022.

127. The therapeutic composition of Claim 85 wherein said deletion results in reduced expression of the *nef* gene product.

128. The therapeutic composition of claim 85 wherein said deletion results in the expression of a truncated *nef* gene product.

129. The therapeutic composition of claim 85, wherein said deletion comprises at least about 10 nucleotides.

130. The therapeutic composition of claim 85, wherein the HIV-1 isolate is recognized by an antibody to a glycoprotein of HIV-1, and is capable of inducing an immune response in humans and primates against at least one glycoprotein on HIV-1 while not substantially reducing proliferative responses and cytokine production to a mitogen in said humans and primates.

131. The therapeutic composition of claim 130, wherein said isolate is recognized by an antibody to one of gp41-45, gp120, or gp160 of HIV-1.

132. The therapeutic composition of claim 130, wherein said immune response is against one of the *gag*, *pol* or *env* gene products.

133. The therapeutic composition of claim 85, wherein said HIV-1 strain is selected from the group of viruses having the ECACC designations V94101706, V941031169, and V95031022.

134. A therapeutic composition useful for inhibiting or reducing productive infection by a pathogenic strain of HIV-1 and/or for vaccinating an individual against the development of AIDS or AIDS-related diseases, said composition comprising a non-pathogenic isolate of HIV-1 and at least one of a pharmaceutical acceptable carrier or a diluent, wherein said HIV-1 strain comprises a genomic deletion of at least about 10 nucleotides in the region corresponding to nucleotides 9281-9438 of the *nef* gene and U3 long terminal repeat, wherein said nucleotide numbering is based upon HIV-1 strain NL4-3.

135. The therapeutic composition of claim 134, wherein said HIV strain is recognized by an antibody specific for one of HIV-1 gp41-45, HIV-1 gp120, or HIV-1 gp160, and said HIV strain is capable of stimulating an immune response in humans or primates to at least one of the *gag*, *pol*, or *env* gene product without reducing proliferative responses and cytokine production to a mitogen.

136. A therapeutic composition useful for inhibiting or reducing productive infection by a pathogenic strain of HIV-1 and/or for vaccinating an individual against the development of AIDS or AIDS-related diseases, said composition comprising a non-pathogenic isolate of HIV-1 and at least one of a pharmaceutical acceptable carrier or a diluent, wherein said HIV-1 strain is selected from the group of viruses having the ECACC designations V94101706, V941031169, and V95031022.

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated December 19, 2000, Applicants have amended the specification and the claims which, when considered in view of the following remarks, is deemed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration of all pending claims is respectfully requested.

In the present Office Action, the Examiner has made the restriction requirement final. As a result, claims 49-67 and 85 are under consideration. Claims 1-48, 68-84 and 86-119 are withdrawn from consideration.

In response, Applicants have canceled claims 1-48, 68-84 and 86-119 without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to file one or more divisional applications directed to the subject matter of these canceled claims.